WRESTLING THEN & NOW

Evan Ginzburg-Editor/Publisher P.O. Box 471 Oakland Gardens Station Flushing, NY 11364

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St. Louis, Mo., Friday, May 21, 1948

Rogers vs. Longson Tops Packs May 21 Card at Kiel Auditorium

BUDDY ROGERS
DEATH OF A LEGEND

GLAMOR BOY BUDDY TRIES FOR TITLE IN FIRST LOCAL BOUT THIS YEAR.

Mrs. Rogers bouncing boy, Buddy — the idol of the bobby soxers and the despair of half the heavyweight wrestling division — will share the spotlight Friday night, May 21, with Wild Bill Longson in the main event of Tom Packs championship wrestling card at air-cooled Kiel Auditorium.

After an absence of five months from the local ring Buddy comes back for the biggest event of his ring career-a chance to dethrone Longson and gain the National Wrestling Association's belt as heavyweight champion of the world. While he has been away from St. Louis Buddy has been meeting all comers in the East, running up a string of victories which indicates that he is at the peak of his form. And local ringsiders, who have seen him scintillate here in the past against leading opponents, know that Buddy's best in mighty good.

Matching Longson with such an opponent is no easy job, since the cantankerous champion finds Rogers' speed and deception difficult to counter with his brand of ring warfare. Generally Buddy is like a gadfly in the ring, dashing in like light ning to strike and then evading retaliation just as quickly. He has, however, battled like a man berserk on a number of occasions when his temper has been aroused, and Longson has a faculty of making his opponents lose their tempers rather quickly.

As the title match, as well as the main event of the evening, the Longson-Rogers go will be over the one fall route, with no time limit. In other words, it goes on until one or the other wins or until both are knicked out and with both grapplers in perfect condition there should be plenty of action.

Four other bouts, details of which will be found elsewhere in this issue, complete the May 21 program which Promotor Packs has arranged. Advance tickets may be obtained at the Mezzanine ticket office of the Arcade Bldg. downtown, or you may purchase your pasteboards at the Auditorium the night of the match. Either way you'll see the best in wrestling.

GINZBURG'S GAB

Welcome back to rasslin's only nostalgia sheet. This issue we once again honor a time when wrestlers didn't vomit, drip ooze or spontaneously combust! (Some even used their own names and didn't wear makeup! SIGH!!!).

Anyway, if you're as disgusted as I am with '92 wrestling, you've found a home here at WT&N. This month we have what's turned out to be Buddy Roger's last printed comments, a snippet from his recent appearance on Mike Lano's great Canvas Cavity cable show. Speaking of our dental giant, Dr. Mike's helping me put together a Racism In Wrestling special issue with several great interviews and outrageous clips- the feature piece is an interview with Pez Whatley who feels the NWA "lost millions" due to racism. Be here- coming shortly!

Upcoming WT&N interviews: Killer Kowalski, Lou Perez, Bill Anderson, and many, many more. Enjoy a new one each and every issue.

These are a few of my favorite sheets (hummed to the tune of Rodgers and Hammerstein's "Favorite Things"- later covered by John Coltrane!): Jeff Mullins' truly original Sushi ($1.50 to PO Box 36189, San Jose, Ca. 95158), Lazarus Doblesky's tremendous (and I mean that!) Piledriver (PO Box 34 Glenhuntly, Vic. Australia 3163), Greg & Peter Ruffolo's underrated Pro Wrestling Monthly ($2 to 568 Speedwell Ave. Morris Plains, NJ 07950), the fine Wrestling Perspective ($1.25 to PO Box 401 Camillus, NY 13031-0401), the warm and wonderful Wrestling Chatterbox (23-44 30th Drive Astoria NY 11102- only $2.50), John Arezzi's Pro Wrestling Spotlight Newsletter- $1.50 to 136 N. Carle Ave., Suite 125 Babylon NY 11702- special thanks to columnist Don Laible for his support of WT&N!, fellow R&B fiend Sheldon Goldberg's magnificent Mat Marketplace ($2.50 to PO Box 2371, Jamaica Plain, MA. 02130) and of course Wade Keller's Pro Wrestling Torch $1.50 to PO Box 20144 Minneapolis, MN 55420 (speaking of which, Eric Kroll's anti-lucha libre piece was the most absurd piece of writing I've seen in many a moon- sorry Wade!) There's so many sheets out there I can't plug 'em all, but try a new one today! I should also once again remind you that Arena Report is a steal at $1 (PO Box 952547, Lake Mary, FL. 32795-2547), and you can regularly read my venom spewing, hate dripping, sarcasm tinged diatribes against today's mat inaction that most promoters are gearing towards 6 year olds and mental giants everywhere in AR.

Thanks to Anthony Bender, Dave Schwartz and all the radio people who have continued to support WT&N! I've said it time & time again, but the old fans are for the most part **gone** (can you blame them?), and I truly appreciate your support for this underdog sheet!

Serious summer jams caught live: R&B legend Bobby Womack, Zydecko great Rockin' Dopsie (who wears a crown like Ladd, Lawler, Race etc.), Reggae giants Tiger, Cobra & Super Cat (sounds like lucha libre stars, huh?), Mingus Big Band, the Quasar/Architect/Inventor of Rock & Roll- Little Richard (who hasn't lost a note! Awesome!), Gospel Queen Marian Williams, the outrageous Sun Ra, the dynamic Nona Hendryx, R&B obscurity Swamp Dogg, and too many more to name. NY is music heaven- too bad it's evolved into a wrestling wasteland! We do have Savage & Flair going around the horn in disgraceful 2½* matches, but I save my $ for things I really enjoy- like musicians that pour their heart & soul into their work!

Recently broke up with my girlfriend, moved with a buddy into a new place, and have been doing the 2 job/newsletter grind. If I sound even more delirious than usual, forgive me!

Don't forget the WT&N Annual- History Of The Territories is still available at a measly $7! 100 plus clips and 50 packed pages.

Enjoy the issue and don't forget that your comments & contributions to WT&N are always welcome! Couldn't do it without 'ya!

ERIC EMBRY-O

FROM: JASON CONLAN
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IRON MIKE EINHORN: HOME BOY-COOKIE PUSS
(The Man Who Knows Wrestling Like The Palm Of His Hand)

Right now I'm looking forward to an exciting new venture. It's not definite, she just moved to my building.

The last time I saw Kamala the Giant he either was distracted by high pitched sounds only he can hear or he had bad clams for lunch.

By the time you read this I might be delivering your mail. My friends tell me not to take the job- I might grab a hunting rifle and clean house. The only obstacles I can see are getting up early and kissing Saturday goodbye for the next 20 years.

Evan Ginzburg feels about the disco days what the hippies must feel about Woodstock.

My concept of real estate is that hotels are red and houses are green.

While a lot of people fondly recall the golden age of wrestling, I think back to when David Bowie was sexually ambiguous, and we liked it that way.

I think I'm allergic to Kleenex.

I enjoy playing golf, except those windmills give me a tough time.

Drugs and homosexuality in the WWF? I'm not sure, but I think those are the kind of things you learn in prison. We'll take 'em downtown and have them singing like a canary.

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WRESTLING THEN, NOW, AND A L W A Y S BY DR. MIKE LANO

I often get upset when my Canvas Cavity tv show co-host * embelishes the truth, typically in bragging about all the bouts and territories he NEVER worked. He worked only Henry Rogers, Gulas and Roy Shire-period(and he never fought Thesz, Gotch, etc.) He only worked S.F. from 1973 to 75, then very sporadically till Shires '81 killoff with first Kansas then Fla. booking. Shires said on the show,"I had a heart attack and triple bypass after I truly found out Pat was gay. I fired him and he went to Florida, then NY(roughly '77) and I hired my first booker-big mistake, in Bob Roop who killed my f'in territory before Kansas ever did. I don't care what he says, we only drew a few good Cow Palace houses with that f'in Roop. He lied and told me he booked in Fla, when in reality all he did was serve coffee to Eddie Graham." Buddy Rogers and Johnny Valentine have been on together(by phone) on the show several times. Both call each other Budro and Boobie, respectively. The Boob said re: Titan:" You know, if wrestling had proper health and disibility insurance, I wouldn't be broke in this Mobile Home Park. Sure Scott and Crockett tried to help initially, but it was their fault I got into that tiny plane to make a show-and wrestling truly needs retirement planning, IRA counseling, medical and dental-and definately disibility." Rogers:"It's a crying shame many of the guys that earned the big promoters like Vince a lot of many, are now broke with no other occupation to turn too, and generally no money. Look at Billy Jack Haynes,Billy Graham, or Barry Orton. They had no skills outside of wrestling. In baseball or football, athletes are given exposure to all kinds of post - career training, and are encouraged to make use of it. Many pro teams and even high schools take care of guys for life when they're permanently injured on the job, but not wrestling.
Evan's yearbook was a thing of majesty, and devoted hard work. We plug it and the sheet each week, so tell your friends to support our editor. My only qualm was with Anon. who wrote the old L.A. bios with some inaccuracies: Gordman was in fact a singles star-holding the America's, United National, TV and Beat the Champ singles titles. Goliath was billed on WIN as training youngster Bobby Bradley in '89, and Gordman works to this day, as do the Twin Devils with their gimmick in Mexico, and Ca and Tx indies. Gordman wore a mask up till recently, teaming with Arias Romero. What was in Tolos' wooden packing crate was not a wrestler as listed-but the snake in a surprise box. This late 1970 gimmick, preceding Jake uknowwho, was used for one month(2 matches) against Blassie. Tolos had the cobra around his neck ala Roberts. Apparantly Anon., had some Calif knowledge but was reading old programs instead of relying on factual material. Otherwise, I think many of us love the title histories that Wrestling Historiamaniac Mike Rogers spends hours putting together. Eventually it is hoped Mike can have the computer library available to all, or have all his hard work displayed for every territory. Evan and Mike are to be commended for a sensational, invaluable yearbook to treasure. It was the most remarkable amidst Wade's and Steve's.

The Sheik may never grant a sheet interview, but as his tv manager (Dr. Shariff Farouk) I know he's lovin' every bit of the Titangate allegations, just as James E. is. When we took off from the AWF spot in Jersey, he wanted to detour to Stamford to pee on Titan Towers before going onto Lowell, Ma. I never got this confirmed, but George Cannon told me Junior humiliated Sheik, as well as Dusty in front of several 4th floor employees years back, taunting them with job offers. Isn't that harrassment too- asking them to beg in front of peers, and then telling them "we'll call you" laughingly? One of our Canvas Cavity female stars who wrestles out of the many Florida promotions, said she was sexually harrassed by when he was in Florida-on three occasions. When she refused any of his sexual requests, he told her she could forget ever getting work in Memphis. Recently a former Memphis valet told Canvas Cavity she plans to sue for similar accusations. This has to stop- whether same-sex or male to female harrassment will continue to get media play until it and steroids are irradicated from the biz. And that's straight from the horses mouth here in Cavityville, friends.

*Gerhard Kaiser

WHY 1992 WRESTLING SUCKS

BY VIC STANLEY

Evan recently gave me this germ of an idea to ponder for my regular W T&N column. After my usual 2 pots of hi-octane java, the germ rapidly mutated into a brain virus. The only restriction he gave me was to try not to mention steroids as the main explanation. Rather than offer up the state of 1992 Wrestling as seen through my own eyes, I have chosen to "interview" a crossection of mid-America for their perceptions and opinions on the subject.

YOUNG PARENTS WITH KIDS WHO ARE WRESTLING FANS - "Do you have any idea how expensive it is to take a family of four to the matches? Between tickets, ticket service charges, gas, tolls, parking, programs, concession stand treats, pennants, posters, foam rubber toys, etc. you're talking almost $200.00! 1992 Wrestling sucks because it is priced out of the range of most normal people on a budget."

THE LITTLE KIDS WHO ARE WRESTLING FANS - Every time I start to like a wrestler, he turns into a bad guy. I used to like Sid Justice and Jake the Snake, but now they're bad. I can't even like a lot of the good guys any more because they cheat so much. Why does Big Boss Man handcuff and beat up his opponants when they are already pinned? I have even heard that my biggest hero, Hulk Hogan, lied to all the little Hulkamaniacs like me about a lot of things. Why would he do this? I don't even understand why I'm now supposed to like the Undertaker. 1992 Wrestling sucks because my dad said that there are no longer any real heroes for kids like me to admire."

RING RATS - "The boys are nowhere near as much fun as they used to be. They look bigger and healthier than ever, but for some unknown reason or reasons, a lot of them have greatly reduced sex drives. They're afraid of doing drugs with me. They're afraid of being accused of rape. They're afraid of paternity suits. They're afraid of AIDS. They're afraid of VD. Now I ask you, do I look like the type of girl who would spread VD? 1992 Wrestling sucks because the boys are afraid of everything, including me."

AN ATTORNEY - "1992 will bring even more litigation involving defection and breach of contract, racial discrimination, copyright infringement, drug abuse, drug testing, leasing exclusivity, ownership of title belts, libel, slander, etc. etc. etc. 1992 Wrestling sucks because it's almost as if it were an actual business and not just a hobby or pastime meant to be enjoyed."

THE INDEPENDENT PROMOTERS - "The hard core fans, once our bread and butter, complain about a lack of realism in wrestling; but when guys like us try to give it to them, nobody shows up for the shows. That's why we're going bankrupt. Even when we can manage to sign on a couple of big name headliners, they often pull no-shows at the last minute, which really makes us look bad in the eyes of the few fans we have left. This means an empty house next time because everybody is at the crummy WWF MSG show. 1992 Wrestling sucks because the hard core fans don't know what they want."

THE HARD CORE FANS - "We don't know what we want. All we know is that we should complain about everything no matter what it is. Sometimes we're just too damned "smart" for our own good and the good of the sport. We demand to have all the inside news in advance, yet in the same breath we demand to be pleasantly surprised by every show. We want it both ways which means that we will never be satisfied no matter what happens. 1992 Wrestling sucks because we suck."

THE NEWSLETTER WRITERS AND EDITORS - "We don't know if 1992 Wrestling sucks or not because we're too busy sniping at each other. We're supposedly the "smartest of the smart" but take a look at how we're behaving and what we consider important, which is mostly ourselves and our own little pseudo-careers. 1992 Wrestling sucks because that is how we report it - so it must be true."

LAZY BUMS LIKE ME - "Speaking as a writer, editor AND "smart fan", I plead guilty to being part of the reason why 1992 Wrestling sucks. I admit to not spending $50.00 getting to and from house shows. I admit to sometimes borrowing free tapes of the PPV's. I admit to deriving more pleasure from the newsletters than from the actual sport. I admit to picking apart a form of entertainment that I refuse to find entertaining. I admit to bitching and moaning about how much 1992 Wrestling sucks without lifting a finger to improve it. Well, I suck too!"

Special thanks to Rich Mancuso for having me on his Pro Wrestling Today TV Show- look for it on your Cable or UHF dial!

INTERVIEW WITH BABYDOLL
By: Ms. Billie Jessee

Babydoll is one of the most influential valets in the wrestling sport. She has been a valet to a number of top name wrestlers and led most of them to title belts. Not only is Babydoll a beautiful lady but coming from a wrestling family, she has used her wrestling knowledge and become the best in her field. I caught up with her in her hometown of Lubbock, Texas and she graciously granted me this interview.

Q: Babydoll, first of all, I'd like to say thank you for taking time from your busy schedule to give us this interview.
Q: Let's begin the interview by you telling us where you were born?
A: I was born and raised here in Lubbock, Tx.
Q: Tell us about your amateur wrestling background?
A: Well, I've been in the wrestling world since I was a little girl, back since my mom and dad wrestled. My mom wrestled in the 1950's as Lauren Johnson and did alot of tag team work with Penny Banner. She went all over the world...places like Australia, Mex, South America, Canada and all throughout the US. Me and my mother actually look alot alike. She even won some Marilyn Monroe look-alike contest in the 1950's. My dad, Nick Roberts wrestled mainly in the US, specially in MN, FL and CA, so I grew up in the wrestling sport. It started by picking guys up at the airports, traveling with them and then progressed into wrestling and valet work.
Q: Who would you credit as being the strongest influence on you in your career?
A: Probably my mom because she always talked about the places she got to travel and all the exciting things she did. Growing up in a small town in Tx, you don't get to do very much and what I always wanted to do was get out and see the world. I just couldn't see myself being stuck here the rest of my life. I really enjoyed all the traveling and that's one thing you have to be able to do...pack your bags and go.
Q: How long have you been wrestling?
A: I actually began down in Dallas, Tx in 1984 under the name of Tanya West.
Q: How do you feel about the independent promotions compared to the major leagues?
A: Personally, I like the larger groups. They seem to take care of their people a little better but the indies are nice too because you can judge your money better and work whenever YOU want...so that's not so bad, you know. The first year that I worked for Tully, I had 12 days off the whole year...no weekends, no nothing, so I was really busy.
Q: Looking back over your career, what would you say is the one single accomplishment you are most proud of?
A: I guess I would have to say it was helping 'Nature Boy' Ric Flair win the worlds title back from Dusty Rhodes.
Q: What wrestler do you admire the most and why?
A: Well, while growing up, of course, I admired my parents. I also grew up watching the Funks. I saw Ric Flair get started in wrestling. Then there was Dick Murdock, Andre the Giant, Bruiser Brody and Stan Hansen. But I think 'Nature Boy' Ric Flair is the number one in the sport today. He is definitely showing everyone that he can be a champion no matter where he is. I have nothing but the highest respect for Ric.
Q: Have you ever been caught in the crossfire or been hurt by a fan?
A: Oh, yes. Lots of times. I've had lots of hair pulled out, of course, black eyes, been strangled, earrings pulled out, you know, the whole nine yards. Once, when I was working with Jim Cornette in the Great American Bash, he severely chipped three of my front teeth and I had to have them all bonded. I had really really nice teeth before then but he caught me with an elbow. This happened on July 3, in Washington DC and I had to have some major dental work done. I've had some major chin sprints from jumping up into the ring but the worst thing was my teeth, I think.
Q: What advise would you give to a young wrestler/valet just beginning in the sport?
A: It's very important to get with someone that you really enjoy being with because you're going to have to spend alot of time together...up and down the road, in hotels, in buildings, airports, etc. And also, choose someone that not only can help you but someone that you will be of help. In a situation like this, you have to compliment each other, for it to work.
Q: Who are some of the wrestlers you have you worked for?

BABY DOLL INTERVIEW
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[...]		
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79/08	Ric Flair & Blackjack Mulligan	
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79/10	Rick Steamboat & Jay Youngblood	
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80/05/10	Rick Steamboat & Jay Youngblood [2]	Greensboro
80/06/22	Ray Stevens & Jimmy Snuka	Greensboro
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81/05/01	Gene Anderson & Ole Anderson [4]	Richmond, VA
81/12	VACANT Andersons stripped	
82/02	*Ole Anderson & Stan Hansen Unofficial: winners of part of a tournament to crown new NWA champions, they were supposedly to face Eastern representatives Wahoo McDaniel & Magnificent Muraco in June, but the tournament final is cancelled	Atlanta
82	VACANT	
82/09	Sergeant Slaughter & Don Kernodle Fictitious tournament supposedly in Japan	
83/03/12	Rick Steamboat & Jay Youngblood [3] They also won the belts 83/03/27 in Toronto	Greensboro
83/06/18	Jack Brisco & Jerry Brisco	Greenville
83/10/03	Rick Steamboat & Jay Youngblood [4]	Greenville
83/10/21	Jack Brisco & Jerry Brisco [2]	Richmond, VA
83/11/24	Rick Steamboat & Jay Youngblood [5]	Greensboro
83/12	VACANT Steamboat retires	
84/01/08	Don Kernodle & Bob Orton Defeat Dory Funk Jr. & Jimmy Valiant in tournament final	Charlotte
84/03/04	Wahoo McDaniel & Mark Youngblood	Charlotte
84/04/04	Jack Brisco & Jerry Brisco [3]	Spartanburg
84/04/27	Wahoo McDaniel & Mark Youngblood [2]	Richmond
84/05	Ivan Koloff & Don Kernodle	
84/10/20	Dusty Rhodes & Manny Fernandez	Greensboro
85/03/18	Ivan Koloff & Nikita Koloff	Fayetteville
85/07/09	Rock 'n' Roll Express: Robert Gibson & Ricky Morton Defeat Ivan Koloff & Krusher Kruschev (Barry Darsow)	Shelby, NC
85/10/13	Ivan Koloff & Nikita Koloff [2]	Charlotte
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86/02/02	Midnight Express: Dennis Condrey & Bobby Eaton	Atlanta
86/08/16	Rock 'n' Roll Express: Gibson & Morton [3]	Philadelphia
86/12/06	Manny Fernandez & Rick Rude	Atlanta
87/05/26	Rock 'n' Roll Express: Gibson & Morton [4] Fictitious title change match supposedly in Spokane after Rude jumps to the WWF	
87/09/29	Arn Anderson & Tully Blanchard	Misenheimer
88/03/27	Barry Windham & Lex Luger	Greensboro
88/04/20	Arn Anderson & Tully Blanchard [2]	Jacksonville
88/09/10	Midnight Express: Bobby Eaton & Stan Lane	Philadelphia
88/10/29	Road Warriors: Hawk & Animal	New Orleans
89/04/02	Mike Rotunda & Steve Williams	New Orleans
89/05/07	VACANT Rotunda & Williams stripped after Varsity Club attacks special referee Nikita Koloff	
89/06/14	Fabulous Freebirds: Michael Hayes & Jimmy Garvin Defeat Midnight Express: Bobby Eaton & Stan Lane	Ft. Bragg
89/11/01	Rick Steiner & Scott Steiner	Atlanta
90/05/19	Doom: Butch Reed & Ron Simmons (281)	Washington
91/02/24	Fabulous Freebirds: Michael Hayes & Jimmy Garvin [2] Freebirds had already lost the belts at a TV taping before winning them on a PPV card	Phoenix
91/02/18	Rick Steiner & Scott Steiner [2] Injured 91/03/09	Montgomery
91/06	VACANT Scott Steiner injured	
91/09/05	Enforcers: Arn Anderson & Larry Zbyszko Defeat Rick Steiner & Bill Kazmaier in tournament final	Augusta,
91/11/19	Rick Steamboat & Dustin Rhodes	Savannah
92/01/16	Arn Anderson & Bobby Eaton	Jacksonville

NWA/WCW World TV Title

84/05	Tully Blanchard		
85/03/16	Dusty Rhodes		
85/04/28	Tully Blanchard [2]		Charlotte
85/07/06	Dusty Rhodes [2]	(180 days approx)	Charlotte
85	VACANT Rhodes injured with a broken leg		
86/01/04	Arn Anderson Defeats Wahoo McDaniel in tournament final	(248 days)	Charlotte
86/09/09	Dusty Rhodes [3]	(79 days)	Columbia
86/11/27	Tully Blanchard [3]	(263 days)	Greensboro
87/08/17	Nikita Koloff	(162 days)	Fayetteville
88/01/26	Mike Rotunda	(335 days)	Raleigh
88/12/26	Rick Steiner	(56 days)	Norfolk
89/02/20	Mike Rotunda [2]	(39 days)	Chicago
89/03/31	Sting	(156 days)	Atlanta
89/09/03	Great Muta (Keiji Muto)	(121 days)	Atlanta
90/01/02	Arn Anderson [2]	(336 days)	Gainesville
90/12/04	Z-Man (Tom Zenk)	(41 days)	Gainesville
91/01/14	Arn Anderson [3]	(125 days) [or 910107]	Marietta
91/05/19	Bobby Eaton	(25 days)	St. Petersburg
91/06/13	Steve Austin	(208 days)	Birmingham

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A: Well, I first worked for Gino Hernandez, then with Jake Roberts in Dallas, Tx. After that, I went to Charlotte, NC with Tully Blanchard. Then I worked with The American Dream Dusty Rhodes and The Nature Boy Ric Flair. Some of the others that retained my services were the Warlord, Big Bubba<Big Bossman> in Kansas City, Sam Houston and Larry Zbyszko. So you see, I've worked for a variety of wrestlers and enjoyed each one. But my favorite one to work with is 'Nature Boy' Ric Flair. I was with him for only 2 months before moving to Kansas City but with Ric, I didn't have to worry about taking care of that much because he knew how to take care of himself on the road. My duties were very limited and everything was FIRST CLASS, with the Nature Boy.

Q: Tell us something about your educational background?

A: I did really good in high school and college. I graduated from Lubbock High School in 1980 and was 6th out of 360 students, so I did pretty well. I then went to a jr college for 2 1/2 yrs and then went to Tx Tech University for 2 yrs. I didn't really know what I wanted to do so I took the basic classes. In fact, I only lack about 19 hrs to get my Bachelors of Science degree. I participated in about every sport that I could, except golf. I took tennis lessons, was on an All-City throw shot discus in high school, here in Lubbock for 3 years, which I lettered in 2 yrs. I really got into the discus throwing because Kerry Von Erich threw discus and I used him as a role model. I had 2 yrs of track and field...won a couple of gold medals, alot of silver medals and a couple of bronze medals. In my senior yr in high school, they started soccer here at Lubbock high school and we won All City team and I played fullback for them. I really had a good time playing soccer. When I went to college, I didn't do as much sports but I did alot of running and kept in pretty good shape.

Q: Do you have a workout schedule?

A: Yes, I workout at least 3 times a week, spending about 2 hours each visit to the gym. So, it's a total of about 6 hours a week in the gym, walking everyday. Sometimes, I just put the baby in the stroller and away we go. I enjoy working out and keeping my body in the very best condition possible.

Q: Do you remember your debut match?

A: Yes, it was in San Antonio, TX. Actually, it was quite a surprise to everyone. No one knew I was there so everyone was shocked when I escorted Gino Hernandez to the ring. He had some business for me to take care of and that's exactly what we did that night. It was so exciting and I had a great time.

Q: What is your strongest point, as a wrestler/valet?

A: I guess it would be having the overall knowledge of how the sport operates. A lot of the young girls that get into wrestling now just do it to look good and to go to the ring. Most of them don't have a clue as to what an armbar or headlock is. I know all the moves and how to execute them and more importantly I basically know what hold comes up next. My height is also a big advantage because I really stand out in a crowd.

Q: Who has been your toughest opponent?

A: Well, I distinctly remember a girl by the name of Stella Mae French, whom I wrestled in Dallas. I have also done some mixed tag team matches with Sam Houston in Dallas against Sunshine for the UWF. You know, Billie, I'm 6' tall and weigh about 165-170 lbs and there's not too many girls that are my size to compete with.

Q: Do you feel that wrestling will ever reach the point of having only one world champion?

A: I think there is so much competition and so many markets that I just can't see there being just ONE world champion. There will always be at least two.

Q: Have you wrestled overseas?

A: I have wrestled in Canada with Dusty Rhodes and Ric Flair. Personally, I would love to go to Japan but haven't had the opportunity, yet. Wrestling is alot harder in Japan than here in the US. The Japanese judge you on holds, maneuvers and skill where here it's more fancy costumes, glitz and glitter and the body plays a bigger role in the sport here moreso than in Japan.

Q: Did you pattern your style of wrestling after anyone?

A: No, I didn't for the simple fact that I was one of the very first. The only valets that were before me was Sunshine and Precious and only about 6 months prior. I was really the first one to have national recognition. Elizabeth, Sheri Martel and Missy all showed up after I did. I think they patterned after me because all the wrestlers saw what an added attraction I was and how much of a distraction a good valet can really be and add to their charisma.

Q: In your opinion, what does it take to be a winner?

A: It takes alot of determination, alot of self-sacrifice, alot of putting others first, instead of yourself. You have to look out for everyone else but yourself. You have to take what the guys around you are going to want and need of you rather than what you want and need.

BABY DOLL

CONTINUED NEXT PAGE

Baby Doll's Gimmicks

The Finest in One of a Kind Sportswear

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Large selection of colors and designs in your choice of thin or thick spandex.

A Rainbow collection of rhinestones and sequins to get you noticed.

I do repairs and customizing of your old tights and jackets.

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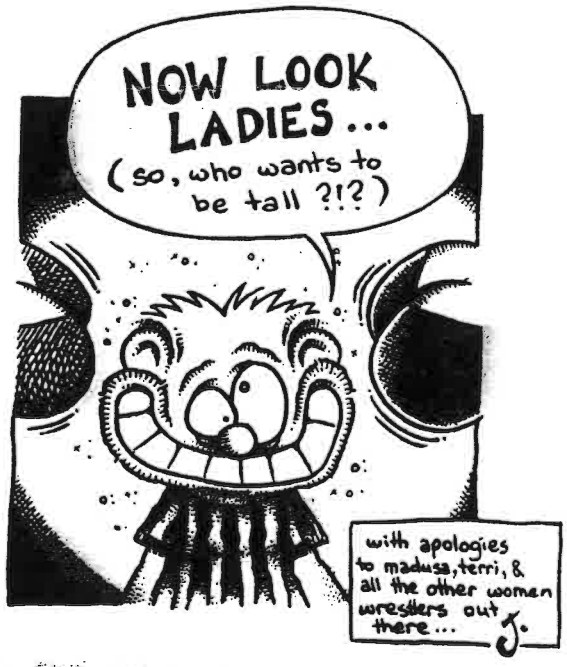
DON'T MISS IT!!!
PLUS ALL OUR GREAT WT&N ARTISTS!

RON DOBRATZ ON CHICAGO 1982
DAVID KRAMER ON FIRST MATCH MEMORIES IN NYC
DAVID WILLIAMSON'S MEMORIES OF SOUTHERN WRESTLING
MIKE LANO
VIC STANLEY
EVAN GINZBURG'S LISTENING POST
ANOTHER EXCLUSIVE INTERVIEW
RARE CLIPS
MORE TITLE HISTORIES FROM GARY WILL AND ROYAL DUNCAN



Q: Are there any holds or moves that you feel should be barred from the sport?
A: No, not really. Wrestling is a tough sport and if you let yourself be put in a position where someone else can get a real devastating hold on you, that's your own fault.
Q: Do you think the economic status is effecting pro wrestling with regards to live card attendance?
A: Well, I think if you have something that the people want to see, they'll pay it, no matter what. Whether they really have the money to spare they're going to go out to see it whether it's on a PPV basis, going out to the actual buildings in attendance because I know that certain organizations are drawing really good crowds no matter what the economic situation is because they have a product that the people really want to see.
Q: Who do you think is the top wrestler today?
A: Ric Flair.
Q: What is your view on cable tv and ppvs'?
A: I really like it. When I was a little girl, pro wrestling had territories where wrestlers went to small towns and they developed a following and now it seems like wrestling comes to Lubbock, for instance, once or twice a yr and for the people that really like it, the PPV provides access to wrestling. It's just another market. The world's changing everyday and we can't expect wrestling to stay the way it was 10 or 20 yrs ago. I like the big shows, too, because it gives the guys a chance to really show-off to a big audience.
Q: As you know, there is a high rate of liquor and drug abuse in sports today. How do you feel about that?
A: Well, first of all, the problem lies not only in wrestling but in all sports. It's a lifestyle. It's so trying when you have to get up in the morning and hit that plane and then you get so hyped-up after the matches and the adrenalin is flowing so much that alot of guys find it so easy to go down to the bar and have a couple of drinks and go back to the room. I think many of the guys think they deserve it but in reality, they are only hurting themselves.
Q: Do you feel more athletes are turning to drugs because of stiffer demands made on them such as performance, traveling and competitions?
A: Yes, but it may have turned around a little bit now and it's reached a peak and some of the wrestlers have seen how bad it was affecting their bodies and now I think its turned more towards going back to their rooms, watching some tv and going to bed rather than hitting the bars. They're finding how much easier it is to get up in the morning when they haven't had a couple of drinks and easier to go to the gym. They are using the gym to work out their stress than drinking it out.
Q: Do you think the promotions should have random steroid/drug testing?
A: I think if the work record show it, yes. Right now, if they're able to keep up the schedule and the stress, I don't think it's anybodies business.
Q: What are your immediate plans?
A: For right now, Billie, I think I'm just going to hang-on a little bit and see what pro wrestling is going to do. I may be showing up in the next yr and if I do it will be with one of the top two promotions and if not, I've got my costume and designing business, Babydoll Gimmicks. I design and make any type of ring wear such as tights, trunks, robes, masks, etc. I presently have about 150 wrestling clients that I am costuming for and needless to say, that keeps me really busy.
Q: Aside from wrestling, what are your hobbies and interests?
A: Well, as I said, I do alot of my own sewing. Another of my hobbies is pistol shooting. I don't get to go out as much as I'd like to but I really enjoy pistol and rifle target shooting.
Q: Do you have any brother or sisters?
A: Well, I have no sisters but I have one younger brother, Rebel...and he is definitely a REBEL. He will graduate from Tx Tech this yr in Political Science and then he's going to do some graduate work I think he's going to be a professor out there.
Q: What type of music do you enjoy listening to?
A: Definitely hard rock and roll.
Q: What is your height and weight?
A: I'm 6' tall and weigh 165 lbs.
Q: What is your age?
A: I just turned 30.
Q: Who is your fav singer?
A: Steven Power of Aerosmith.
Q: What is your fav food?
A: Mexican and Chinese.
Q: When is your birthday?
A: February 13.
Q: Are you married?
A: I'm divorced from Sam Houston.
Q: Do you have any children?
A: Yes, I have a little daughter. Her name is Mikka Tyler who had her first birthday in January.
Q: Again, Babydoll, thank you for this interview and we hope to see you at ringside real soon. But until then, remember that all interested parties can join the BABYDOLL FAN CLUB by writing to me, Ms. Billie Jessee, 812 Burwind Ct. #6, Kingsport, Tn 37660-5662.

DAVID WILLIAMSON'S
CLIPPINGS CORNER!

NWA NATIONAL WRESTLING ALLIANCE

CHAMPIONSHIP WRESTLING IN Chattanooga

March 25, 1979

TONIGHT'S CARD

★ MAIN EVENT ★

N. W. A. Mid-America Tag Team Championship Match

TERRY GORDIE and PRETTY BOY HAYES champions	VS	THE MEXICAN ANGEL and JERRY 'KING' LAWLER challenger

Grudge Battle --- Brass Knuckles Rules

DON FARGO	VS	GYPSY JOE

Explosive Tag Rules
Falls Count Anywhere In The Building

TOJO YAMAMOTO and CHRIS COLT	VS	GEORGE GULAS and BOBBY EATON
BUTCH THORNTON	VS	BUTCH THORNTON
RICKY GIBSON	VS	RICK MORTON

WRESTLING COLISEUM

SAUL O. PAREDES, Presents
WRESTLING EVERY MONDAY
EL PASO COLISEUM
October 7, 1968 — 8:30 P.M.

Six-Men Tag Team - Three versus three
For the first time in wrestling history the greatest boxer of all times, Joe Louis wrestles in a tag

JOE LOUIS and RICKY ROMERO 232 lbs. and DORY FUNK Jr. 240 lbs	VS.	J. C. DYKES and THE INFERNOS Combined wt. 467 lbs.

Special stipulation for this match: Any time Dykes jumps into the ring for whatever reason automatically Joe Louis can also jump in.
2 out of 3 falls or 60 minute time limit

SEMI-FINAL EVENT

MAN MOUNTAIN MIKE 560 lbs.	VS.	LORD PATRICK PATTERSON 234 lbs.

2 out of 3 falls or 45 minute time limit

SPECIAL EVENT

BIG ROJO 255 lbs.		JERRY KOZAK 228 lbs

1 fall or 20 minute time limit

FIRST MATCH

NICK BOCKWINKLE 230 lbs		RAY DURAN 220 lbs

1 fall or 15 minute time limit

Ringside 2.00 - Box Seats - 1.50 - Gen. Adm. 1.00
Child Gen. Adm. 50c Military Disc. any seat
Tickets and Reservations Call 533-8610
CENTRAL TICKET AGENCY

Club Physician: Dr. Fernando Jimenez
Announcer-Time Keeper: Saul O. Paredes
Ushers: Paisano Lions Club

JACKSONVILLE, FLA. 11-2-66

Tonight's Program

The Infernos Managed by: J. C. Dykes	VS.	Ed Graham & Sam Steamboat Managed by: Gentleman Saul Weingeroff
Les Welch	VS.	Sputnik Monroe
Jose Lothario	VS.	The Mummy
GIRLS		
Sherri Lee	VS.	Toni Rose
Corsica Joan	VS.	Silento Rodriguez

MIKE RODGERS'
FLORIDA 1983

1/2/83 ORLANDO
BARRY WINDHAM & RON BASS BEAT JAKE ROBERTS & KEVIN SULLIVAN DOUBLE BULLROPE MATCH, RUFUS JONES BEAT JIM GARVIN. ANGELO MOSCA BEAT BRIAN BLAIR, MIDNIGHT RIDER BEAT TEXAN. MAGNUM TA BEAT YATSU, SCOTT MCGEE DREW YATSU.

1/4/83 TAMPA
KEVIN SULLIVAN BEAT BRIAN BLAIR, MAGNUM TA & SCOTT MCGEE BEAT KANGAROOS, MIDNIGHT RIDER BEAT TEXAN. RON BASS & RUFUS JONES & MIKE GRAHAM BEAT JAKE ROBERTS & ANGELO MOSCA & JIM GARVIN, BARRY WINDHAM BEAT RIC FLAIR DQ.

1/11/83 TAMPA
CHARLIE COOK DREW JIM GARVIN, LEROY BROWN BEAT RON BASS DQ, SCOOT MCGEE & MAGNUM TA BEAT KANGAROOS, JAKE ROBERTS BEAT RUFUS JONES, MIDNIGHT RIDER & BARRY WINDHAM BEAT KEVIN SULLIVAN & RIC FLAIR.

1/15/83 TAMPA
SCOTT MCGEE & CHARLIE COOK DREW KANGAROOS, KEVIN SULLIVAN BEAT MAGNUM TA, RON BASS BEAT JAKE ROBERTS, RUFUS JONES BEAT ANGELO MOSCA DQ, MIKE GRAHAM BEAT JIM GARVIN, MIDNGITH RIDER DREW LEROY BROWN, RIC FLAIR BEAT BARRY WINDHAM.

1/18/83 TAMPA
CHARLIE COOK BEAT TEXAN, MAGNUM TA & SCOTT MCGEE BEAT KANGAROOS GLOBAL TAG TITLES, RUFUS JONES BEAT ANGELO MOSCA DQ, MIKE GRAHAM BEAT JIM GARVIN DQ, LEROY BROWN BEAT RON BASS, MIDNIGHT RIDER & BARRY WINDHAM BEAT KEVIN SULLIVAN & JAKE ROBERTS.

1/25/83 TAMPA
MIDNIGHT RIDER BEAT KEVIN SULLIVAN LUMBERJACK MATCH, JAKE ROBERTS BEAT CHARLIE COOK, RON BASS BEAT JIM GARVIN, LEROY BROWN BEAT RUFUS JONES, KANGAROOS BEAT MAGNUM TA & SCOTT MCGEE TO REGAIN GLOBAL TAG TITLES, ANGELO MOSCA BEAT BARRY WINDHAM TEXAS DEATH MATCH.

SOUTHERN CHAMP FRANK DUSEK, FLORIDA SCOTT MCGEE, BAHAMA RUFUS JONES, GLOBAL TAG SCOTT MCGEE & MAGNUM TA.

2/1/83 TAMPA
ANGELO MOSCA BEAT RON BASS CAGE MATCH, CHARLIE COOK & RUFUS JONES & MIDNIGHT RIDER BEAT JAKE ROBERTS & KEVIN SULLIVAN & LEROY BROWN,

2/2/83 MIAMI
RON BASS BEAT ANGELO MOSCA TEXAS DEATH MATCH, RUFUS JONES & CHARLIE COOK BEAT KANGAROOS DQ, MIKE GRAHAM BEAT KEVIN SULLIVAN, LEROY BROWN BEAT MAGNUM TA, SCOTT MCGEE DREW JAKE ROBERTS, MAGNUM TA BEAT DON KENT DQ.

TAG TITLE
THE KANGAROOS
MAGNUM TERRY ALLEN & SCOTT MCGEE 1/18/83
THE KANGAROOS 1/25/83
MAGNUM TA & MIDNIGHT RIDER 2/15/83
MCGEE REPLACES RIDER
KANGAROOS 3/8/83
MAGNUM TA & SCOTT MCGEE 3/31/83
ANGELO MOSCA & BOBBY DUNCUM 5/8/83

SCOTT MCGEE & MIKE GRAHAM 7/5/8?
KAREEM MUHAMMAD & AKEEM 7/31/83
DUSTY RHODES & BLACKJACK MULLIGAN
ONE MAN GANG & RON BASS 11/30/83

SOUTHERN TITLE
BARRY WINDHAM
FRANK DUSEK 3/16/83
RON BASS 4/30
MIKE ROTUNDO

MIKE RODGERS PUBLISHES RINGS AROUND THE NORTHWEST- GREAT REGIONAL COVERAGE FOR .50¢. 613 NE 176TH ST. PORTLAND OREGON 97230. ALSO PHOTOS, RESULTS SHEETS ETC. SPECIAL THANKS TO MIKE FOR ALL HIS HELP

FLORIDA TITLE
VACANT
SCOTT MCGEE 3/23/83
JOE LEDUC
MIKE ROTUNDO WON TOURNAMENT 12/16/83

1983 WRESTLER OF THE YEAR
DUSTY RHODES DEFEATED MANY STARS DURING THE YEAR INCLUDING RIC FLAIR, KEVIN SULLIVAN, PURPLE HAZE, ADRIAN STREET, OX BAKER ECT.

1983 TAG TEAM OF THE YEAR
BARRY WINDHAM & RON BASS WHO BEAT SUCH TEAMS AS JAKE ROBERTS & KEVIN SULLIVAN, FRANK DUSEK & LEROY BROWN, ANGELO MOSCA & BOBBY DUNCUM, KEVIN SULLIVAN & PURPLE HAZE BECOME THE 1983 TAG TEAM OF THE YEAR BEFORE THEY FEUDED.

DEATH SCAMS! BY A. NONYMOUS

In professional wrestling, nothing is sacred. Religion has been mocked with the likes of Brother Love and Jarret's Ernest Angel. The WWF has drawn upon every taboo known to man (I love McMahon's quotes on the WWF being "wholesome family entertainment" on Donahue, from the man who gave us The Ultimate Warrior puking, Jake having Savage bit by a Cobra, Adonis with his "Yes, I'm Gay!" statement and blatant stereotyped routine, etc...etc...etc...). Yet even "death" has been mocked from time to time. Rumors circulate and people supposedly dead often wind up very much alive. Yet from time to time, "death" has been deliberately worked, with the participants involved knowing full well what was going on.

BEARCAT WRIGHT 1971

Several wrestling magazines carried obituary notices for Bearcat Wright in 1971, which was curious as at the time these death notices were out, plugs were made for him to fight The Sheik in Cleveland and other midwestern towns. Wright, who had supposedly "died from sickle cell anemia" was using this for some type of scam or angle, but it was never made known why. (This was before you had Meltzer and his throng, a hundred other bulletins, newspapermen, and who knows who else telling everything to anyone who would listen. The wrestlers, themselves, if they knew reasons for things, NEVER gave them to tabloids, fanzines, or whatever). Thus this remains a mystery, and since Wright really did die a few years back, the mystery goes to the grave with him.

SUPERSTAR BILLY GRAHAM 1981

Newspaper columns all over the east carried an article and obituary on Graham, who supposedly died in his home in Paradise Valley, Arizona, due to "cancer". While Graham was having health problems, even then, he did not die and this was assumedly used as an angle to get his name in print, prior to his 1982 return to the WWF to challenge Bob Backlund (Funny how nobody mentions how this supposed dead man did a series of matches for local yokel promoter Barry Bernstein as a tune-up, prior to going to the WWF, including a job where he was pinned by local hero Jody Arnold).

MARCIAL BOVEE 1989

Ticked off by 2 zine editors who said he couldn't work, Bovee decided to "work" the entire wrestling world. Obituaries concerning his death appeared in many zines and even Wrestling World, which drew some verified letters of mourning from marks who failed to realize his burial site was an inside joke. He was supposedly laid to rest in Cherry, Az., which is a ghost town. No one has been buried there in decades. Bovee later said he wanted to spread the rumor he died of AIDS, just to put the scare into a few girl wrestlers and an ex-girlfriend, but dropped it for fear he would be gossiped about as gay! All an elaborate hoax to prove he could work and to inagurate his return as The Time Traveler. He later modified the gimmick to a split personality role, where one week he would be his Time Traveler, the next, be Bovee, a trend he still continues, and not badly either, for those who have seen videos circulating can attest. As for his feuds with the zine editors, this continues too. He has stated that if he could get one of them in the ring, where it would be legal to see an accident happen, one or two would be dead for real and if he couldn't do it himself, he would have it done. Nice guy, huh?

GORDON DARNELL:

My favorite scam. Darnell, a masked man from Kansas City, was really David Rose, a southwestern wrestler. Often, he would be Darnell, a babyface, in an opener, than cross dressing rooms, change gear, and be David Rose, heel, with no one knowing the difference. In Tucson, Rose pulled off the greatest scam ever, when as Darnell, he was "Killed" by top villain Jody Arnold, following a series of body slams, which reportedly caused internal damage. Carried unconscious to a car and supposedly driven to a hospital. which of course was never named, he in reality took off his mask, was driven around the block a few times, changed into street clothes, and returned as David Rose. The death announcement was made the following week, with nobody seeming to question the truth of the matter in spit of the fact that the then active State Athletic Commision had not acted, nor did news releases appear. Get this, "The body was sold for medical dissection, as the family was destitute", and naturally, a collection for the impoverished family without a father to support them, was taken, with around $1000 being collected, split between Arnold, Rose, and promoter Harvey Kramer. Even more ironic, Rose resurrected Darnell by coming back as "Darnell's Twin Brother, MARK Darnell" or something like that, which has obvious hidden meaning. Wearing the same Gordon Darnell mask and clothes, he then sought revenge for his "dead" but "never existing" twin brother, in a series of fights against Arnold!

MY FIRST LIVE WRESTLING CARD

BY

DON G. SMITH

Every wrestling fan remembers his or her first live wrestling card. I attended my first live card on April 19, 1966 at the Sparta High School Gymnasium, Sparta, Illinois. On that evening, Promoter Sam Muchnick sent my high school a double main event: Pat O' Connor v.s. Moose Cholak, and a tag-team match featuring Cowboy Bob Ellis.

Just as I arrived on foot at the gym, Moose Cholak drove past me into the parking lot. My best memories of Cholak were from televised Chicago matches. While the Big Moose was one of the Windy City's greatest heels, he worked for Sam Muchnick's St. Louis promotion on many occassions as well. When I took my place among the large gymnasium crowd, someone announced that Cowboy Bob Ellis would soon be available for autographs. Sure enough, Ellis, with two stacks of photos for sale, took a seat at a small table near the foyer. The 8x10 of Ellis in Western attire astride his horse, Hickory, cost the most. Those willing to spend less could have a 5x7 shot of Ellis in wrestling gear. The inscriptions were already on the photos. Upon selling the photo, Ellis would supply the autograph. At that time Ellis was one of St. Louis' top faces, sharing the honors with Pat O' Connor, John Paul Henning, Wilbur Snyder, Johnny Valentine, and John Paul Henning. Even though I was a heel fan, I pulled out my wallet and got in line to get two autographed photos, one of each size. An older gentleman in front of me paid for his autograph and said, "Mr. Ellis, I would like to shake your hand." Ellis smiled and complied. Then I stepped forward, bought my photos, and got my two autographs. When I returned to my seat, someone sitting nearby correctly pointed out that I had broken into a sweat. Such was the result of my standing only a few feet in front of a major professional wrestler for the first time.

I don't remember the undercard, but I remember the main events. Ellis was teamed with some usual mid-card babyface against Bobby "Hercules" Graham and Bulldog Lee Henning. Graham was nicknamed "Hercules" because he had appeared as The Masked Hercules before being unmasked by Johnny Valentine. The aging Lee Henning had a unique gimmick. Claiming that his ears were injured in the war, Henning would be forced to release an illegally gained advantage whenever the fans would "hurt his ears" by barking loudly like dogs. As Ellis' team disposed of Graham and Henning, Moose Cholak stood in the foyer watching the action and smoking cigarettes.

Finally Cholak faced the popular O' Connor in the second main event, which was a two out of three falls affair. In the first stanza Cholak dominated O' Connor with his size and weight. O' Connor evened the contest in the second fall, and emerged the winner after a third fall body slam and press.

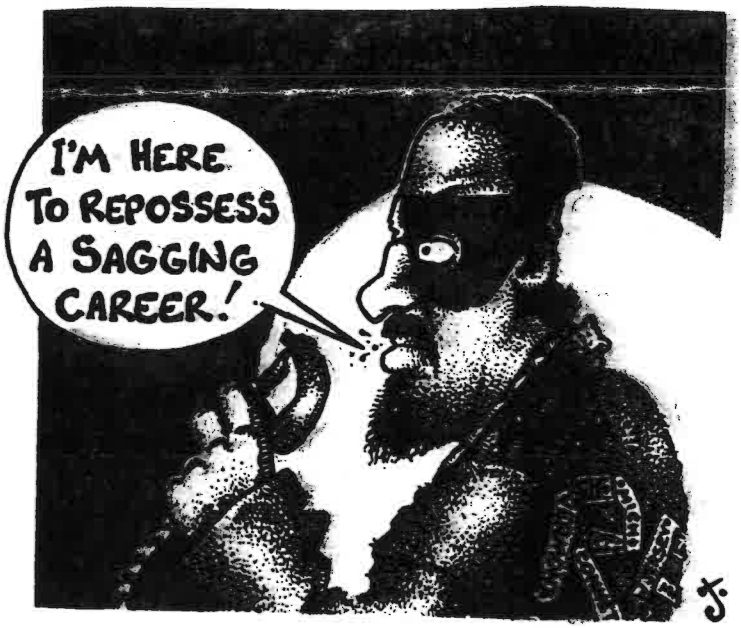
MORE UPCOMING WT&N INTERVIEWS: IVAN KOLOFF & VLADIMIR KOLOFF! ENJOY A NEW INTERVIEW EACH & EVERY MONTH IN WT&N!

EDITOR'S NOTE: READERS: SUBMIT ARTICLES ON YOUR FIRST LIVE WRESTLING CARD FOR PUBLICATION IN WT&N!

After the show I went back into the dressing room. As a sophomore basketball player I had a locker back there, so I felt I had a license to intrude. As soon as he saw me, Cholak yelled "Get outta here!" But I just smiled, said "yeah, yeah," and walked over to Bulldog Henning, who was combing his hair in front of the locker room mirror. "Mr. Henning," I said politely, " Could I please have your autograph?" Henning stayed in character but signed the back side of my Cowboy Ellis photo! I still have those autographed photos today, and I still have the memories of that first live card. The next day I celebrated my sixteenth birthday.

Ernest Hemingway once said that every story has a tragic ending if followed long enough. This was no exception. About ten or twelve years later my wife and I were attending Sam Muchnick's St. Louis shows on a regular basis. Unfortunately, Moose Cholak landed a few of those dates. At that point he could do almost nothing but weak comedy. As I watched I remembered that exciting match years ago against O'Connor and wished that top wrestling stars could somehow manage to leave the game before embarassing themselves. At that point in his career Cholak was no better than many of today's WWF wrestlers. And that is bad!

Of course Lee Henning and Pat O' Connor have passed away. At the announcement of both deaths I felt that a little bit of myself had died with them. And regarding Ellis, I still remember a later radio interview with Sam Muchnick in which the great promoter revealed that the Cowboy himself, one of the heroes of my generation, had been a most unreliable employee. Oh well, Fritz Von Erich was my hero when I was sixteen. But we all know how that story played out too, don't we!



It seems that St.Louis has been the place of origin for as many famous professional athletes as any other zip codes in the country. Few of these St.Louis athletes have risen to the heights in their profession like pro wrestler Penny Banner. The former south sider was recently honored by her peers for outstanding achievements in her sport.(yes I said sport and the old timers considered wrestling as such) The occasion was the Cauliflower Alley Club annual banquet in Hollywood,California. This 1500 member club is for the boxing and wrestling fraternity to gather and further the club motto-"the ring of friendship."

Young Mary Ann Kostecki was a natural. She excelled in all the neighborhood games from marbles and jacks to baseball and soccer. She attended St. Vincent De Paul and St. Francis De Sales grade schools and then went on to Rosati Kane High School and played basketball and volleyball. Mary Ann was both a student of and teacher of judo at a YMCA. This progressed into an interest in pro wrestling and St.Louis promoter Sam Muchnick helped start and guide her career. One thing Sam could not help Mary Ann with was teaching announcers to pronounce Kostecki. For simplicity sake, given name Kostecki gave way to professional name Banner and a long career was born. Wrestling in St.Louis in 1956, Penny Banner was described in the program as a former Rosati Kane student. (This program did not mention if students were given the day off to attend the matches.)

Athletic ability combined with good looks made Penny a wrestling star locally and a major attraction all over the country. Some of the title belts won were the Ladies Canadian Tag Team,World Tag Team,Texas State,and the AWA World Title won in 1961 and retired undefeated with in 1977. In a unique coincidence, Pennys' husband Johnny Weaver was a pro wrestler also. The both of them now reside in Charlotte, North Carolina with their daughter.

Penny gives credence to the phrase once an athlete always an athlete. At age 57 she is heavily involved in Senior Olympic competition. She has earned national medals in the shot putt and discus and placed high in several swimming events. During a Saturday afternoon Cauliflower Club get together, old wrestlers were in the hotel lounge embellishing old stories and comparing scars. Penny came in a little late because she was in the pool already training for next years national senior events.

It was great fun to see the old wrestlers at the Cauliflower Alley Club. It was even more of a thrill to meet this personable and attractive fellow native St.Louisan. At least once a year Penny becomes Mary Ann and comes back to St.Louis to visit family and friends.

1954

Does Size Mean Power?

The tremendous build of some of our athletes represent great power in their build. "Killer" Kowalski, for instance, and Yukon Eric are rated among the world's most powerful athletes.

Size does not always mean power in boxing, however, especially when it comes to punching power. For instance Primo Carnera and Abe Simon, two of the biggest of athletes who were in boxing were not tremendous punchers. It is true that Carnera had a long string of knockouts in his fistic career, but many of these kayos were scored at the expense of mediocre fighters. Big fellows in boxing generally push their punches rather than punching sharp and with a devastating force.

HOLD IS INJURIOUS

The pile driver hold is looked upon by wrestlers as one of the most damaging to a foe. Buddy Rogers once sent a wrestler to the hospital when he used the grip in training. Bob Orton has a thorough knowledge of the pile driver and uses it to splendid advantage on his opponents.

Wisconsin Produces Champions

Wisconsin has always been a great state in which wrestlers were developed. Naturally, the greatest wrestler to come from Wisconsin was Ed "Strangler" Lewis. He was a heavyweight champion. Midget Fischer, who lives in Butternut, Wisc., was once recognized the light heavyweight titleholder.

Milt Olsen was a state junior heavyweight champion. He and his brother Einar Olsen are from Milwaukee. Reggie Lisowski, also a Milwaukee product has the makings of a heavyweight leading challenger. Friedrich Von Schacht, who comes from Milwaukee never quite made the grade as a titleholder, but he is a thorn in the side of the greatest heavyweights of today.

Another rugged heavyweight from the Badger state is Bobby Nelson, of Kenosha. Bobby wrestles quite often but he has created a cheese and sausage business that is successful in Kenosha. Joe Gordon from Milwaukee scored many victories in his pro career.

More and more I'm growing to appreciate your newsletter...

I don't think you realize the service you provide offering nostalgia. Being only 23 I can't pretend to know all the names but it's an education and the more names I see that I don't recognize, the more efforts I'm making to learn about them. Loved the Sweet Daddy Siki interview...as a matter of fact, I can't think of an interview you've printed that wasn't at least entertaining. Another aspect of WT&N that I truly like is the obvious love you have for what you write about. The impassioned pleas, the sentimentalism, the personality and the personal stories about your dates and how wrestling played an important role in your family life. Too many of the newsletters either look down upon the readers, like to namedrop, want to prove they are the "smartest" or just have editors so obnoxious it hampers their product. It's taken me a while to warm up to your newsletter...but I can sense that real people who are real fans are at work on it, and I can think of no other with as much heart (Sushi runs a close second).

Wrestling has been a lifelong friend to me. I never realized the role it played until I looked at my strongest friendships...and in the last 6 or 7 years of an embattled relationship with my father...it was wrestling, the Cubs and the Bears (in that order) that I could always talk to him about. Mostly wrestling as my interest in the other two was superficial at best. I haven't spoken to my father since June of last year, for reasons far too lenghty and personal to engage in, but in that last one hour that I spent with him before he took off to God knows where, we jumped from "how are you" to 45 minutes of wrestling (with a smidgen of women and basketball thrown in). It's weird to think that all these years the only non-biological tie to my own father was wrestling. A few years ago I even tried to use it to keep regular communciations with him by sending him monthly "best of" tapes. However, I never heard back from him at the time.

As long as I live, my best childhood memories are going to be of going to wrestling matches. And my fondest memories of my father will be watching Sat. nite TBS (he loved Roddy Piper) and going to the then Checkerdome of Kiel for wrestling in St. Louis. My household was abuzz the night Roddy saved Gordon from Muraco. The whole family relived that probably the whole weekend. And no wrestling discussion between my father and I could go without mentioning the Brody vs. Flair draw we watched.

He was, I guess, a mark. I was a kid and he shared my childish enthusiasm. In his eyes, if Brody ever got over his temper, he would've been world champion. He loved to tell the story where he and my mom were on a date at wrestling matches in Waverly, IL and he got kicked out for pulling Johnny Valentine off his opponent while in a pinning predicament. In recent years our discussions elevated to behind the scenes stories but I kayfabed him all the way. Even when he'd suggest something might not be on the level, I'd shrug my shoulders and shake my head, sometimes offering an excuse. Guess I was afraid it'd change things.

I suppose I knew, despite all that happened between myslef, my mom and him...if Dad was a wrestling fan...he had to be OK...and I'm forever indebted to him for passing that on.

Today kids don't have that. Angles hotshot in and out of our view without any credibility or relatability. Kids might "ooh" and "aah" at Nord stabbing at the Undertaker with his sword or Papa Shango's voodoo, but what happens when they develop the ability for abstract reasoning. If I'd grown up in this era, I think it's safe to assume not only would my father's interest in wrestling wane...but mine would as well. WCW may be a little better, but I don't think it would be enough.

You hated Flair because of his mouth...not because of pictures of his opponent's wife. You respected Bockwinkel because he was so intelligent. Race because he really was tough...and I remember one weekend where I saw him suplex David Von Erich on the concrete causing him to convulse and punch Barry Windham with such a loud pop on another show that I was afraid to watch. You loved Bruno or Bruiser cause they were battling for the common man and Ted Dibiase because he was so skilled yet could have lived next door. Today there are next to no stars that still don't cross some line into being a caricature. Marcus Alexander Bagwell is not like someone you graduated with that you had as a friend. Steamboat brethes fire even though he has a family. Barry Windham and Dusty Rhodes are the closest things to guys you might actually relate to and like.

I don't mean to bitch because today's product is, arguably, superior athletically. But how long could a kid and his dad have a reasonable discussion over the Mountie's shock stick, whether Hammer can really play guitar, and my dad would've changed the channel the second one of the USWA ladies had their skirts hiked for a spankin'. Then again, ti would be my hope that everyone has a father-son relationhip with a better foundation. Just the same, I'll always love wrestling how it was- for what it used to be.

Thanks for your hard work...

CHRIS MARTIN
SPRINGFIELD IL

THE ROCCA STORY

By Norm Reissman

His name is Antonino Rocca, better known as plain Argentine. You may not recognize the guy when he's upright because he happens to be in the air most of the time, propelled by the most educated feet in the wrestling business.

Rocca, the handsome Latin-American, has drawn gates upwards of $50,000 four times at Madison Square Garden by virtue of incredible flying tactics. He'll send a man out of the ring with those feet, or head-scissors him to insensibility or just spar around, tapping an opponent on the nose with his annoying bare feet. These are Rocca's patented methods which have taken three sections of the country by storm. From New York's Garden, he has swung out to the Middlewest, with Chicago as a focal point, and then Los Angeles, loading up arenas with highly-enthralled spectators along the way.

They know him as the acrobat of the wrestling game. A fellow who once might have been a world famous ballet artist or even circus performer but for the fact that he could pick up $100,000 or more yearly in grappling.

Ask Primo Carnera about him, or any of the other big-time muscle-men. They'll say, in unison, "The guy's not normal. He's always flying, clear across the ring."

Rocca was born in Treviso, near Venice, Italy, but drifted to the Argentines when he was 16, and played a fine game of rugby football while cultivating the mat trade. His dad, Antonio, had been fencing champion of Europe for 12 years. The offspring, however, who grew a tremendous body of 226 pounds on a six-foot stature, needed more exciting ventures. There was rhythm in the frame. He often wrestled to music. Also wrote music. He dieted like a fanatic. And now at 29, he's an amazing product. He has written four hit ballads for Argentine music lovers. He has given his diet to New York Yankee players Vic Raschi and Yogi Berra for conditioning. He is studying jet propulsion after graduating with an electrical engineering degree and having 800 hours of solo flight.

And withal, he contributes a rich lore to the wrestling business.

WT&N STAFF PROFILE: ARTIST WAYNE ST. WAYNE

ST. LOUIS POST-DISPATCH

TUESDAY, MARCH 24, 1992

ELAINE VIETS

Expanding Poetic Universe On South Grand

THE performance art was in progress, and the audience was enjoying it immensely.

The artist was a hip and humorous young woman named Shannon Presley, in the official poet's uniform. She wore black stockings, black high heels, short skirt and denim jacket.

The city audience included old hippies, young poets and a woman in a stocking cap who just wandered in.

Shannon was speaking on "world peas" and holding a jar of the green veggies.

She talked about "a world where lettuce and onions share equality in one salad bowl." Even sprouts were praised.

The woman in the stocking cap began adding revival-style responses.

"God bless her ... she's right ... she's so sweet," said Stocking Cap.

"Let there be peas on earth," Shannon sang, and the green peas spilled on the ground.

The woman in the stocking cap picked a pea off the floor. She ate it.

Shannon gave her the rest of the jar. A man offered the woman one of the free doughnuts.

"Thank you, baby, I mean, young man, but a doughnut would make me fat. I'll eat the peas."

She did, too. The whole jar — "very delicious" — while the poets poured out their souls in song and music.

"The universe is expanding right here on South Grand," said Shannon.

Praise the Lord, as the woman with the stocking cap would say, for I saw wonderful visions.

There, in one room at Just Pictures, an art gallery at 3189 South Grand, were all the people I thought disappeared during the don't-give-a-damn '80s:

- A young poet, Carolyn Hazelwood, with luminous pale skin, who writes sad verses about the homeless: "Blue clear see-through friendly hands in death."
- Percy Wells, a tall man in striking red and black, read his jazz poem: "Sporadic rythmmmmms pulsating ... permeating ... indigo night air ..."
- Mike Mertell recited the kind of political poems that start fights in bars.

If you don't have a poem, you at least had an attitude. There were young men in leather and shaved heads, older men in vests and bow ties.

There's nothing poetic about the location, between a German deli and a Vietnamese restaurant. In this city neighborhood, "hard-headed" is a high compliment.

But the weekly Wednesday night poetry readings at 8 o'clock are a success. They're also free.

The art is cheap. You can buy acres of pictures for $3. The most expensive is a Dali reproduction for $225. Many have the muddy browns and mustards of pictures that wind up in the guest room. But some works are startling and unusual.

Just Pictures is run by Jody Erbschloe and Rich Presley, and yes, performance artist Shannon is Rich's daughter, back from Miami.

Everyone is back from, or going to, somewhere else.

Poet and musician Clay Smith said this was the first time he'd been on a stage since "I passed out onstage in San Francisco 10 years ago."

His touching poems were hand-printed on graph paper. They looked like they'd been bled onto the page.

Young Matthew Isbell, age 19, took a deep breath and read his poem:

"I am the guardian of a key
"The key unlocks all locks
"I am imprisoned though
"For the guardian holds the key."

He looks pleased and relieved when his reading was over, as if he survived a root canal without anesthetic.

Poet, painter and pro wrestler Dr. Blood — also known as Wayne St. Wayne — had a different reading style. He grabbed the microphone and throttled it like an opponent, while he read from his epic, "Nineteen Ninety Ten."

"Saint isn't my name," he told one man. "It's my occupation."

People wandered in and out constantly, while the poets spoke. The air was filled with cigarette smoke. The floor was spattered with spilled coffee.

"It's like Gaslight Square in the early '60s," said Frank Moskus. He ought to know. He was there.

"It's like a gig at the Apollo in New York," said musician Denny Garreis.

"I used to listen to Jimi Hendrix there when I was a kid," said Wayne Shelton, who probably had the only dreadlocks on South Grand.

Wayne is a New York musician who played the congo drums for that night's main entertainment, Guadaloupe Sounds.

Wayne and keyboardist Mark Tiller, in fedora and '40s style suit, accompanied poet Maria Massey.

Maria, in a haunting, dream-like voice, read a poem to her little nephew, Joshua:

"Hey little sugar — little fresh flesh
"son of my sister
"I know the sound and taste of you in my dreams
"I know the cry of your milk-hungry mouth ..."

Sometimes, the audience applauded the beauty of the work. Sometimes, we applauded the poet's courage for getting up there.

Sometimes, we didn't know what we were applauding.

Early in the evening, Mark Tiller set up his keyboard on an old ironing board. Wayne Shelton plugged in an electronic drum kit.

The two produced a mournful groaning and plopping sound that was oddly attractive. Sounded a little like Philip Glass.

I clapped my hands like everyone else.

"Wait," said Wayne. "We were just warming up."

Jerry Naunheim Jr./Post-Dispatch

Just another Wednesday night at Just Pictures. Poet, painter and pro wrestler Wayne St. Wayne and/or Dr. Blood shows off his latest work.